

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00574 101244Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02

DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 /137 W

-----110737Z 113966 /21

R 101225Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2582

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DOHA 0574

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, QA

SUBJECT: QATARI OIL MINISTER SPOUTS AGAIN

REF: DOHA 0561

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1. QATARI OIL MINISTER AND CURRENT OPEC PRESIDENT SHAYKH
ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, WHO MUST BE GOING FOR THE
RECORD OF NUMBER OF PRESS INTERVIEWS GIVEN, HAS GUSHED HIS
LATEST TO BEIRUT DAILY "AL NAHAR." EXCERPTS APPEARED IN
QATAR NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN OF MAY 10.

2. ACCORDING ABDUL AZIZ, "THE COMING FEW DAYS WILL BEAR A SURPRISE FOR ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OIL AFFAIRS WHETHER PRODUCERS OR CONSUMERS, AND IT WOULD BE A PLEASANT SURPRISE."

3. OTHER POINTS MADE BY ABDUL AZIZ INCLUDED: (A) UAE HAD "REFUSED" TO INCREASE ITS PRODUCTION, AND MARKETING OF QATARI OIL UNAFFECTED BY TWO-TIER PRICE STRUCTURE; (B) NO PLAN FOR OPEC SUMMIT, BUT "I MAY SHORTLY CALL FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TO RECONCILE VIEWS AND SETTLE OIL PRICES"; LATER IN INTERVIEW ABDUL AZIZ REMARKED THAT THERE HAD BEEN MANY PROPOSALS FLOATED TO RESOLVE OIL PRICE CONTROVERSY, BUT AGREED UPON FORMULA NOT YET CRYSTALLIZED AND IT PREMATURE TO PREDICT ANY FINAL FIGURES; (C) SAUDI PRICE MODERATION MAY HAVE POLITICAL AIM OF ASSISTING ARAB CAUSE AND GIVING U.S. CHANCE TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE.

4. COMMENT: ABDUL AZIZ' "PLEASANT SURPRISE" AND HIS HINTING AT EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERIAL APPEAR TO BE LITTLE MORE THAN ATTEMPTS TO MAINTAIN PRESS INTEREST IN WHAT HE SAYS. ONE CAN NEVER TELL IN THESE PARTS, HOWEVER, SO WE ARE REPORTING HIS COMMENTS FOR WHATEVER THEY'RE WORTH. PAGANELLI

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Message Attributes

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